

**Lieutenant Governor
Joseph E. Kernan, Director**
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ONE NORTH CAPITOL, SUITE 700
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204
TEL 317 232 8800
www.indianacommerce.com

For Immediate Release: May 20, 2002

For More Information Contact: Jeff Harris, 317.232.2464

Kernan Announces Grants to Train 830 Workers at Five Central Indiana Companies

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that five central Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund.

“We’re proud to support Hoosier companies like these that are investing in their workforce and their community,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts.

- **Hartford Fire Insurance Co.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to train 360 new employees following a \$3.8 million investment in building renovations and new equipment. Owned by Hartford Financial Service, the Connecticut-based firm was formed in 1985 and provides property, casualty and life insurance products throughout the country. Employees will be trained in policy writing for property dwellings, state licensing, small loss property and homeowner coverage.
- **National Starch and Chemical Co.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$165,000 grant to train 550 existing employees following an investment of \$56.1 million in a new facility and equipment. The company produces specialty starches, bulk starches, grain by-products and adhesives for a variety of products including clothing, money, paper, cardboard, foods and computer boards. The Commerce grant will be used to train employees in maintenance, team building, problem solving, information technology, electricity and quality control procedures.
- **Overton & Sons Tool & Die Co., Inc.**, Mooresville, has been awarded a \$30,000 grant to train 15 new and 87 existing employees following a \$965,000 investment in a facility expansion and new equipment. An international leader in the tool and die industry, Overton & Sons provides high quality carbide tooling for the medical and electronics sectors. Using the Commerce grant, employees will pick up skills in tooling, problem solving, team building, fork lift operation, computerized numeric coding, grinding and quality management procedures.

-more-

- **Perfecto Manufacturing, Inc.**, Noblesville, has been awarded a \$45,500 grant to retrain 159 workers following the company's \$3.3 million investment in new equipment and facility expansion. The company, which manufactures and assembles various sizes of aquariums, stands, lighting accessories and other related products, will use the Commerce grant to train employees in forklift operation, glass processing, tank building and other skills associated with the expansion. Employing approximately 400 people, Perfecto's customers include retailers like PetsMart, Wal-Mart and Petco.
- **The RND Group, Inc.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded a \$5,700 grant to train 11 current and eight new workers as part of a \$283,000 expansion and equipment upgrade. The privately owned software engineering service company was formed in 1987 and provides custom software tools and applications to support and enable the development of intelligent electronic products. Currently, the company works with customers in industries such as medical products, consumer electronics, semiconductors and printing/manufacturing. The grant will be used to train employees in quality management procedures.

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web Site at www.indianacommerce.com.

###